

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application and entry of the Amendment are solicited. Claims 3-7 remain pending in the application subsequent to entry of this Amendment.

The Examiner questioned claim 3 and the last “wherein . . .” phase and asked that this be clarified in items 1-2 of the Official Action. Appropriate corrective/clarification action has been taken and it is submitted that claim 3 is now fully compliant with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The balance of the Official Action relates to a single prior art-based rejection based upon a combination of seven references. As stated in the Amendment and Response of June 12, 2008, the fact that so many references were required to form the basis for rejection is evidence, in and of itself, indicative of non-obviousness. Applicants maintain their position on this point and disagree with the position set out on page 6, first full paragraph of the current Official Action. Claim 3 is a relatively straightforward claim and it is puzzling why so many references are necessary to form the basis for an “obviousness” rejection.

Applicants believe that claim 3 has not been correctly interpreted because (apparently) of the unclear/confusing wording of the claim. With the claim now reworded into a clear, more apt description, Applicants request that the prior art-based rejection be reconsidered in light of these changes.

In particular, Applicants dispute the relevance of Clifford et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,083,284). Clifford deals with an apparatus for dying yarn using a dye liquor. In contrast, the present application is concerned with making a cross-linked raw cord which includes introducing the raw cord into a cross-linking solution in a device having a particular configuration.

Applicants also point out that the claims are directed to a process or a method, not an apparatus,

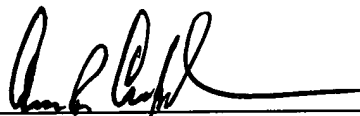
and accordingly believe that the Clifford patent is taken from non-analogous prior art and therefore would not be the type of document that would be consulted by one having ordinary skill in the art of preparing cross-linked polyvinyl alcohol cords/fibers.

For these reasons it is respectfully submitted that the claims in this application define inventive subject matter and that the applied prior art, when properly considered and non-analogous Clifford is excluded, is not suggestive of the procedures defined by claim 3.

Reconsideration, entry of this Amendment and allowance are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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